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Executive Registry

82-0245

DDI-746-82
28 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : State Request for CIA Participation in Special Project on
New El Salvador Captured Documents

1. Action Requested: That you approve or disapprove CIA leadership of an ad hoc intelligence working group to review and synthesize for Congressional and public release a new set of captured guerrilla documents from El Salvador. [] 25X1

2. Background: This morning Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ted Briggs called to inform me about the following:

- US Embassy San Salvador is sending more than a thousand captured guerrilla documents by courier and wishes that they be made available to the Congress and public.
- These documents provide details of extreme left plans to disrupt and discredit the coming Salvadoran elections.
- State would like the NIO/LA to chair a small working group to include DIA and INR, which would select 20 of the most interesting documents for summary and translation over the weekend.
- This intelligence working group would also prepare a brief overview of the key documents.
- Assistant Secretary Thomas Enders will then release this information to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his public testimony on Monday, 1 February 1982. [] 25X1

3. If you are in agreement with this project, I would like to request that one seasoned analyst from DDI and one from DDO work with me. [] 25X1

4. The positive aspects of this are clear while the other considerations which relate to the inherently controversial nature of captured documents and intelligence community participation in evaluating them are also obvious. Although I would be pleased to contribute to this effort in any way you think appropriate, it could be argued that the State Department has the political

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judgment required to review and synthesize the most relevant documents and that intelligence community participation might be used in a public arena to discredit the information. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
Constantine C. Menges

cc: DDCI
DDO
DDI
C/NIC
D/ALA

DECISION:

1. Approve CIA participation with NIO/LA chairmanship. ✓
2. Approve CIA participation with other chairmanship as follows _____
3. Disapprove CIA participation. _____

/s/ William J. Casey

Director of Central Intelligence

28 JAN 1982

DATE: _____

2

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Distribution:

- 1 - DCI
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